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enough to be proved in one page (p. 475). Japan is "the savior of Europe" (p. 489), for her mission is "the occidentalizing of the East" (p. 490).

The critical reader of these pages will again and again be vexed by the question why there should be such a great disparity between the quality of an English book on Japanese history published in 1906 and that of English books on the history of any Western nation, and even a greater difference between the state of historical knowledge about Japan at home and that abroad, than there seems to exist between the scientific value of any of the text-books in Japanese secondary schools and that of the present work. Should he lament this state of things, or should he rejoice that even an impure knowledge of a long secluded nation is now accessible to the general public?

K. ASAKAWA.

British Malaya. An Account of the Origin and Progress of British Influence in Malaya. By Sir FRANK SWETTENHAM, K.C.M.G., late Governor of the Straits Settlements and High Commissioner for the Federated Malay States. (New York: John Lane Company. 1907. Pp. xi, 354.)

THE career of Sir Frank Swettenham as a colonial administrator under the British crown has differed in one important particular from that of almost every other official of high rank under the Colonial Office.

It is the usual custom to promote the higher officials from one colony to another; and a glance at the record of services at the end of the Colonial Office List discloses a very remarkable range of experience among those gentlemen who are now at the head of the various colonial governments. The system is exactly opposite to that followed in the Indian service, where as a rule each government servant spends the greater part of his official life in one of the great provinces of which the Indian Empire is composed.

Each method has its advantages—the colonial method in that by presenting a succession of new problems to the administrator it counteracts any tendency towards administrative lethargy; the Indian method being admirably suited to the special conditions which arise from the great differences of race and language to be observed in the various parts of the Indian Empire.

Sir Frank Swettenham entered the service of the British government in the Malay Peninsula in 1868, and from that time until his retirement in 1904 he was constantly associated with the Malay states and the Straits settlements, rising from the lowest grade in the civil service, that of cadet, to the highest posts in the British administration in that part of the world—the governorship of the Straits Settlements and the high commissionership of the Federated Malay States.

It may be doubted whether, with the exception of Lord Cromer and His Highness Sir Charles Brooke, Raja of Sarawak, there is living

to-day any Englishman whose personal influence has been as great as that of Sir Frank Swettenham in the control and development of a tropical dependency. He has paid a curious but perfectly natural penalty for his success, since the orderly and unexciting progress of the Malay Peninsula has afforded nothing which could attract public attention in England; and where others, who have had their dependencies devastated by war, famine, and pestilence, have seen their names become household words among civilized nations, Sir Frank Swettenham is perhaps best known as the author of those delightful volumes, *Malay Sketches*, *The Real Malay*, and *Unaddressed Letters*.

But if the task to which he devoted himself in the Malay Peninsula was one in which battle, murder, and sudden death played a small part it was not because such things were unknown to the native states, for few places in the world have been more rent by internal strife, more distraught by intrigue, but because when he came to fill posts of responsibility the years which he had given to the study of the Malay, his language, his thought, his customs, served him well, and his official acts were guided by a deep understanding of the native and tempered by a tolerant sympathy from his point of view.

Thus many things which in less skilful hands would have spelled war and rebellion were effected through mutual understanding; and the story of British Malay is the most notable record of peaceful reform of which colonial history bears witness, from Lord Clive's Plassey to Lord Kitchener's Omdurman. Were it not for our author's modesty he might well have allowed his volume to bear the legend of another great administrator—*Quorum magna pars fui*.

Not only is Sir Frank Swettenham's work practically unknown except to those who have made a particular study of colonial administration, but the country of which he writes is scarcely more familiar to the general reader than Chandernagore or the Shan States.

British Malay, however, is one of the most important, if not the most important, of British possessions in the tropics. It furnishes the world with three-quarters of its tin supply; its chief town, Singapore, is not only of supreme strategic importance, but is in the first rank of great seaports; its area is greater than that of Ceylon; its population is nearly twice that of New Zealand; its public revenue exceeds that of all the British possessions in the New World, exclusive of Canada; its foreign trade is greater than that of New South Wales and Queensland combined; and its shipping is more than twice as great in volume as that of the colony of Victoria.

From what humble beginnings all this arose; by what infinity of tact and discretion the Malay sultans were led to reform their governments; through what dangers and difficulties the pioneers of British rule in the Peninsula won their way to success; out of what chaos of disorder and misery the native administrations have been rescued; these matters are the burden of Sir Frank Swettenham's book.

The volume is one which should appeal in an extraordinary degree to American readers, for there is scarcely a page which does not present some problem or recount some incident which throws light upon the peculiar character of the Peninsular Malay, who is the first cousin of the Filipino.

This is not a volume of opinions formulated by an arm-chair traveller; it does not drag out its length with the unmeaning vaporings of an irresponsible critic who has never been called on to act in an emergency, and who knows that he is secure in his wildest suggestion since he will never have to stake his life on the feasibility of his proposed methods. It is a practical book written by a practical man who has had the safety and welfare of a million people in his hands and who has maintained that safety and fostered that welfare with conspicuous ability and success under every variety of good and evil fortune.

Although, of course, there is no point to point analogy between the affairs and conditions of the Malay Peninsula and those of the Philippine Islands, the similarity is close enough to lend the greatest value to the suggestive treatment by Sir Frank Swettenham of a large number of questions which are of pressing urgency in the Philippines—methods of taxation, labor supply, education, and the employment of natives in the government service, to name only a few.

The book is provided with an excellent map and is profusely illustrated.

ALLEYNE IRELAND.

Japanese Rule in Formosa. By YOSABURO TAKEKOSHI, Member of the Japanese Diet. With Preface by Baron SHIMPEI GOTO, Chief of the Civil Administration. Translated by GEORGE BRAITHWAITE. (London, New York, Bombay, and Calcutta: Longmans, Green, and Company. 1907. Pp. xv, 342.)

THIS volume gives an interesting account of Formosan affairs as they appear to a member of the Japanese Diet who visited the island on two occasions for the purpose of studying the effects of Japan's first undertaking in the line of colonial administration.

The authority of the volume is somewhat impaired by the insistence with which both the author and his sponsor (Baron Shimpei Goto, Chief of the Civil Administration of Formosa) explain that their object is to tell of Japanese successes. Baron Goto says in his Preface ". . . for my country's sake I cannot forbear giving to the world the story of our success. . . . We have, it is true, emerged victorious from the recent war, but the world still doubts our colonizing ability. I have been very glad, therefore, to write this Preface, believing that these pages will prove instrumental in removing these doubts. . . ."

The author in turn takes the reader into his confidence in his preface. He speaks of the responsibility of colonizing unopened portions of the globe, and continues—"Some people, however, are inclined to